

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSCE-00 STR-07 CEA-01 SSO-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:EHICKS/LC
APPROVED BY ACTING SECRETARY
HA/HR:MBOVA (SUBS)
ARA:GLISTER
LA/CEN:RGARUFI (SUBS)
LA:DP:BUPTON (SUBS)
ARA:SASHELTON
ARA:JBSHNELL
TREAS:WESCOPE (SUBS)
S/S- JETHY EB:FNASH
-----040619 241609Z /75
O 241549Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EINV, SHUM, ES

SUBJECT: IFI LOANS - EL SALVADOR

1. VOTES ON THREE IFI LOANS FOR EL SALVADOR ARE TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE: CATTLE DEVELOPMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (DLS 15.3 MILLION, IDB/FSO, MAY 3); A TEL (DLS 23 MILLION) IPRD, MAY 2); AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL STAGE III (DLS 12 MILLION, IBRD, MAY 23). TH G MAY BE ABLE TO FAVOR THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL LOAN AS ONE MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (BHN) CRITERIA.
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HOWEVER, WE PRESENTLY COULD NOT SUPPORT THE OTHER TWO LOANS ON BHN GROUNDS AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THEM IN LIGHT OF DISTURBING INCIDENTS AFFECTING THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR. IF OUR DECISION WERE TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST THE CATTLE DEVELOPMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH LOAN, IT WOULD NOT PASS. A U.S. NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE IBRD LOANS WOULD NOT IN

ITSELF DEFEAT THEM.

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2. IMPORTANT TO USG ACTIONS IN THE IFI'S BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS IS: CONVEYING TO THE GOVERNMENT IN QUESTION THE CRITERIA WHICH ARE USED IN REACHING OUR DECISION, THE CONCERNS UNDERLYING OUR POSITION AND

STEPS WHICH THAT GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE WHICH COULD INFLUENCE OUR POSITION. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CONVEY THAT INFORMATION.

3. IN TALKING WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECOMMEND VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE ANTEL OR CATTLE DEVELOPMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH LOANS, GIVEN THEIR SMALL BHN COMPONENT AND GIVEN OUR PERCEPTION OF LACK OF RECENT PROGRESS IN RESOLVING CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING DISTURBING REPORTS INVOLVING RECENT GOES ACTIONS IN DEALING WITH CAMPESINOS. YOU MAY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR AWARENESS OF THE GOES COOPERATION WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ITS ADOPTION OF THE (MODEST) RURAL LAND TAX LEGISLATION, GENERAL RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH MOST INCIDENTS UNTIL SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN, AND OTHER POSITIVE SIGNS SINCE ROMERO HAS BEEN IN POWER. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT LATEST EVENTS SEEM TO INDICATE
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QUESTIONABLE GOES ACTIONS WHILE ALSO HIGHLIGHTING THE REALITY THAT FOR THE MASSES OF POOR SALVADORANS VERY LITTLE HAS CHANGED. UNTIL CHANGES DO OCCUR, INCIDENTS ARE LIKELY TO MULTIPLY AND THE PROBABILITY OF DEATHS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ALSO INCREASE.

4. YOU COULD THEN PROCEED TO DISCUSS TWO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE LINES OF ACTION WHICH THE GOES MAY CHOOSE RELATED TO THE ANTEL AND CATTLE DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND OUR EXPECTED POSITION IN THE IFI'S. (THE SUGGESTIONS GIVEN ARE ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE AND YOU MAY WISH TO MODIFY OR ADD TO THEM AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE.)
(A) IT MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR VOTES WERE THERE TO BE PROMPT CONCRETE, DEMONSTRABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN SOME AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ESPECIALLY INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS) IN EL SALVADOR, E.G.:

-- PEACEFUL MEETINGS WITH CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS OF PEASANT, LABOR AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO HEAR THEM OUT AND TO TAKE SOME MEASURES TOWARD MEETING THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT ALLEGED ABUSIVE TREATMENT, ARBITRARY ARRESTS OR

IMPRISONMENT OF PEASANTS;

-- DOCUMENTING REPRIMANDING ACTIONS OR LEGAL PUNISHMENT
METED OUT TO MEMBERS OF ORDEN, SECURITY FORCES OR GUARDIA
NACIONAL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS;

-- ACTIONS SUCH AS INVITING THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
COMMITTEE TO PERIODICALLY INSPECT PRISONS SO AS TO DEAL
WITH PERSISTENT ALLEGATIONS THAT THE GOES HOLDS POLITICAL
PRISONERS DESPITE ITS DENIAL;

-- RATIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS WHICH EL SALVADOR HAS ALREADY SIGNED;
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-- PUBLIC TRIAL OF PERSONS ARRESTED WITHIN REASONABLE
PERIOD;

-- PUBLICATION OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS
FOR THE PUBLIC ORDER LAW, TO MINIMIZE CONCERN FOR TTS
POTENTIALLY ABUSIVE APPLICATION;

PROMPT SPECIFIC ACTIONS OR INFORMATION OF THIS OR
SIMILAR NATURE WOULD SUPPORT THE GOES CONTENTION THAT
IT IS SINCERE IN SEEKING TO DEAL WITH FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN
RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND THE PLIGHT OF THE POOR. ALSO,
WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE GREATER INITIATIVE TOWARD DISCUSSING
AND DEALING WITH ISSUES SUCH AS MINIMUM WAGES AND RURAL
CREDIT. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, YOU SHOULD
NOTE THAT WE REGARD THE TYPE AND DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT
FORCES' REACTIONS TO INCIDENTS AS CLEARLY WITHIN THE
CONTROLLABLE PROVINCE OF THE GOVERNMENT, REGARDLESS OF
WHO MAY PROVOKE INCIDENTS.

(B) ANOTHER POSSIBILITY: THE GOES MAY WISH TO POSTPONE
CONSIDERATION OF THE LOANS UNTIL THE IAHRC REPORT IS
ISSUED. THAT MAY MORE FAVORABLY ALTER OUR CURRENT
ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.
(FYI: WE REALIZE THIS IS UNLIKELY). IF THE REPORT
PROVES RATHER FAVORABLE, WE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO RE-
CONSIDER OUR POSITION ON ANTEL AND/OR THE CATTLE DEVELOP-
MENT LOAN.

5. THE INTENT OF THIS APPROACH IS FOURFOLD: FIRST, TO
GIVE THE GOES ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR POSITION ON THE
SPECIFIC IFI LOANS. SECOND, TO ADDRESS THE MORE GENERAL
QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THIRD, TO PROD
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THE GOES TO TAKE CONCRETE MEASURES TO SUPPORT ITS RHETORIC CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND FOURTH, TO DISCOURAGE GOES RESORTING TO HARSHER MEANS OF DEALING WITH ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUPS OR INCIDENTS. FURTHERMORE, THE GOES RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH A BETTER GAUGE OF THE PRESENT SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT'S TRUE INTENTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WISH TO CLARIFY THAT

USG ATTITUDES WILL BE LARGELY A FUNCTION OF GOES CONCRETE ACTIONS, NOT JUST RHETORIC OR SUPERFICIAL GESTURES.

6. THE INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WILL CONSIDER THE ANTEL AND CATTLE DEVELOPMENT LOANS IN ITS APRIL 28 MEETING. NATURALLY, THEREFORE, IF THE GOES CAN INITIATE ACTIONS ALONG THE LINES OF 4(A), IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF IT COULD DO SO BEFORE THAT DATE. OTHERWISE, GOES MAY CHOOSE TO DEFER PRESENTING THE LOANS FOR VOTE UNTIL LATER IN MAY (GIVEN THE NEARNESS OF THE APRIL 28 MEETING AND MODICUM OF TIME NECESSARY TO JUDGE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN).

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